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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

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SUBJECT Construction Progress of the Danube-Black Sea
Canal Project

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the Danube-Black Sea canal project is still in its initial stages, and at the present rate of work it will take at least ten more years to complete this canal. There are from 3,800 to 4,000 individuals employed on this project at present, most of whom are political prisoners or Rumanian soldiers who are considered non-sympathetic to the regime. Work is carried out haphazardly on the canal; various areas are worked on, depths are dug at several levels, and there are vast stretches between work sites. Most of the labor on this canal is done by hand; there are, however, a total of 1,500 horse-drawn carts to transport the earth.

2. In connection with the canal project, the Danube River port for Gernavoda is now under construction. This will form one terminus of the canal. At present, excavation work along a two kilometer river front section is being excavated. Earthworks have been erected to hold back the Danube River and the earth is being moved to the rear in order to form a built-up bank. This will be the port area, located just below the Gernavoda railroad bridge.
3. There are four Czech-made excavators in use on the port excavations as well as 80 horse-drawn carts. A small narrow gauge railroad is also used to remove the earth. No cement has been poured anywhere along the canal.

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